

The power of a name

Many Hindus mark the naming of their child through a ceremony called Namkaran which translates as 'naam' which means 'name' and 'karan' which means 'create'. A short time after a baby is born, the ceremony will be held in a temple or in the family home. A priest will consult various astrological charts and then pronounce a name for the child. Sometimes this name is taken as the legal name, but often the family will choose a different legal name, and keep the name bestowed upon the child as a part of family tradition. In either case, Namkaran is a time for celebration.

In South Asia, home of the majority of the world's Hindus, it is not uncommon for parents of a new child to wait days or even weeks, before giving them a name.

Sometimes this is because they are looking for personality traits, or because they are waiting for input from the priest at the Namkaran ceremony. Later, if a Hindu joins a religious order, yet another name will be given. Names often also play an important role in identifying caste or community affiliation.

How can we pray

Pray for Hindu parents, as they seek to raise their children, that God will give them wisdom and bless them.

1 CHRONICLES 29:19

Pray for children, who often defined by the names they receive to meet Father God who adds to their identity through adoption as sons and daughters of God.

1 JOHN 3:1

Pray for the bridge of understanding that a high value on names and naming ceremonies creates between Hindus and biblical stories where names matter.

JEREMIAH 1:5